

The Washington Times
Published Every Evening in the Week at
THE MUNSEY BUILDING,
Penn. ave., between 12th and 14th Sts.
New York Office: 115 Fifth Ave.
Chicago Office: 319 Commercial Bank Bldg.
Boston Office: 100 State St.
Philadelphia Office: 612 Chestnut St.
Baltimore Office: News Building
Subscription Price,
Daily (7 days a week), one year, \$3.50.
FRANK A. MUNSEY
The Times is served in the city of Wash-
ington and District of Columbia by news-
boys, who deliver and collect for the paper
on their own account at the rate of 7 cents a
week.
Entered at the postoffice at Washington,
D. C., as second class matter.
WEDNESDAY EVENING, DEC. 23, 1903.

**WHAT THE SNOW MEANS FOR
OUR CHRISTMAS.**

A fine Christmas snow has complet-
ed the setting for the holidays. If it
lasts over Friday, Washington will
have had every opportunity for a per-
fect Yuletide. The wreaths in our
windows, the holly hung over pictures
and doorways, the mistletoe with which
to catch the sweet girl cousin (who is,
of course, wholly unaware), are not
more reflective of the season than the
frame of white hills which today en-
circles the city, or the boughs laden
with white which decorate the streets
and parks outside far more beautifully
than ever we can decorate the rooms
and halls inside.

But the snow has achieved some-
thing more. It has added greatly to
the need for thoughtfulness on your
part and ours. The problems of deliv-
ery before our Washington merchants
and postal employees were difficult
enough yesterday morning. They are
tenfold more difficult today. Roads
must be broken, horses will slip and
fall, hours of delivery will stretch into
the late evening, and men and boys
prepared to work until they can hardly
drag one foot after the other will now
have the dragging to do.

**THINGS A COMMISSION ON
CITY LIFE WOULD FIND.**

In time perhaps there will be a Com-
mission on City Life appointed for the
purpose of ascertaining what can be
done to improve the social opportuni-
ties and intellectual pleasures of those
who, under present conditions, find city
life not only a drudgery, but a constant
vexation.

The farmer, after all, seems to be
fairly well off. Of course, he wants
something. "Yes," says President
Adams, of the Maine Dairy Association,
replying to the Commission on Country
Life, "everybody wants the parcels post."
But the parcels post will come
sooner or later, without doubt, and not-
withstanding the antagonism of the
greedy express men; and then the
farmer will have to look around to see
if he wants anything else.

**A SMILE OVER THE CAPITAL'S
OBJECTS OF INTEREST.**

One of our out-of-town contem-
poraries has a quiet laugh because a
Washington boarding school groups to-
gether the following "objects of inter-
est" for its girls to see:
The tomb of Washington, E. H.
Sutherland, the National Capitol, Otto
Klimmer, the Morgue, John Drew, the
Zoological Gardens, the Belmont
Players, and so on down the line, talk-
ing in the Smithsonian Institution,
Arlington Cemetery, and a monastery
of Franciscan monks.

**THE COUNTRY LIFE COM-
MISSION'S PRACTICAL WORK.**

By the time the Commission on
Country Life shall have given the pub-
lic its report, there will be left very
little excuse for further indulging the
levity with which the commission has
been widely greeted. The truth is that
the people who have poked fun at this
commission have given fine demonstra-
tion of their own ignorance.

The commission is getting ready for
a thoroughly practical, common sense
statement of the problems of country
life. The country can't be made like
the town, and nobody wants it like the
town. It can't get all the advantages,
nor all the vices, of the city. But it
can be improved.

If the commission, as is forecasted,
shall propose a co-operation between
the Federal Government, the States,
and the local administrative divisions,
for the improvement of roads, it will
be a long step forward. The recom-
mendation will not mean legislation;
but an authoritative recommendation
of such importance will be well worth
while, in its effect on public opinion.
The French republic has the most mag-
nificent system roads in the world,
and it was produced in just this way.
Most of the continental highways of
the better class are maintained in the
same way. The system has proved its
efficiency. Our system of strictly local
administration has proved a failure.
Why not try the successful plan?

Next to this the commission wants

the rural schools improved, it is under-
stood. That means that better roads
must be had first, for good country
schools can only be secured after good
roads. There must be consolidation of
the rural schools, and transportation
of the pupils for considerable distances
at public expense. All this is impos-
sible with impassable roads.

It appears that more of the com-
mission's correspondents want improv-
ed schools than demand better roads.
They are getting the cart before the
horse. Roads are a necessary prelimi-
nary to schools, and the commission
will doubtless make this plain in its
report.

That the farmers have no basic ob-
jection to being uplifted a bit would be
seen demonstrated by the fact that the
commission has received 112,000 letters
from them, with suggestions and propo-
sals for making the work useful and
effective.

**CHRISTMAS WEEK, THE TIME
OF CHEER AND HOPE.**

Before this week ends there will have
been observed in most lands what
Christians have agreed upon as the an-
niversary of the birth of the Saviour.
It is not necessary to believe in the
exact anniversary, so far as calendars
go now or ever did go. It is, none the
less, the anniversary.

What is born? Good is born—the
good that warms the heart is born at
Christmas and will be born at this and
every Christmas to come many times
over. Hope, charity—forgiveness and
fraternity of spirit, will be born in mil-
lions of hearts—not for the first time
in some nor for the last in some, yet
perhaps for the first in many.

The green of the tree, the laughter
of the child, the sport, the holly, the
cheer and the joy—the pent and the bent
emotions of mankind will this week re-
lease themselves and be born again,
for near the two thousandth time. And
every one may—and most of us will—
share in the joy at their birth.

Merry Christmas week! Let us all
be happy!

**THE NEW YORK SUN, REFERRING TO
AN OBSERVATION THAT 'NOBODY BUT A MIL-
LIONAIRE CAN AFFORD TO TAKE THE AMBASSADOR-
SHIP OF ST. JAMES,' SAYS 'BOSH!' BUT
MAYBE THE SUN WILL CONCEDE THAT NO-
BODY EXCEPT A MILLIONAIRE IS LIKELY TO
GET IT.**

The more we learn about this night
riding business, the more it seems that
the time is at hand when the country
can get along nicely without any more
of it.

With Venezuela is this delicious state
of mind, it is to be hoped that Mr.
Barnes, of New York, and Richard
Harding Davis and all the various in-
terests of fictitious revolutions are on
hand to get the color of a real one.

Mr. Bryan delivered a speech on "A
Battle Over, a War Begun." Great
heavens! Is it so bad?

HIDING THE PRESENTS.

Secretly, secretly, bring them in—
Ho! for the spirit of Christmas din;
Deep in the closets and under the stair,
Hiding the packages everywhere.

Father is whistling home from the
Peep at him, little one, back of the
door;
Pockets are bulging and slyly he goes
into the closet on tip-toe!

Mother's been spending the afternoon
out;
Ho! for the spirit of Christmas rout;
Bright eyes a-twinkle, there she is,
Ned,
Hiding her packages under the bed!

Ho! for the spirit of Christmas, sweet,
Lips of child laughter and pattering
of feet.
Hiding the presents—Love, hide me the
bliss
Of dreams of sweet childhood when
sleep leans to kiss—
—Baltimore Sun.

**A UNIQUE IDEA IN
THE SCRAP BOOK**

An altogether unique scrap depart-
ment is that in the Scrap Book called
"Actor-Chat" and written by the Dram-
atic Critic's Wife. In the January
number, just out, it covers eleven pages
and has fourteen clever pictures on the
cartoon cover.

A striking specimen is the artist's idea
of what goes on behind the scenes dur-
ing the "big act" in "Via Wireless."
There is the account of an interview
with Blanche Bates in the stunning
green room at the Playhouse, between
the acts of "The Fighting Hope," and
some entertaining reminiscences about
Julie Orr, now appearing at Daly's with
her husband, William Faversham, in
"The World and His Wife." The de-
partment is written in a charming, gos-
sipy style of a letter from one woman
to another, and Jack the husband-crit-
ic is mentioned now and again either
in the way of agreeing with or differ-
ing from his opinions.

Not the least entertaining portion of
the article is the account by Flora
Juliet Boxley, lately leading woman in
"The Lion and the Mouse" and "Class-
mates," of the agonies accruing from
the final rehearsals of a new play. The
Scrap Book is illustrated in color and
the price is now 15 cents a copy.

THE ONLY DETERRENT.

"How is young Chukett getting on in
college?"
"Splendidly. He would have made the
seventh team this year if he hadn't been
deflected in all of his studies."—Cleve-
land Plain Dealer.

**PHILANTHROPISTS WHO SEEM
TO BE MISUNDERSTOOD.**

Evidently the business men of the
New England capital do not like the
taste of the milk of human kindness.
Some time ago they petitioned the
Railroad Commission to look into the
matter of express rates in and around
Boston. The commission found the
rates to be "excessive and unreasonable,"
and it recommended a favorable
readjustment. The express men made
answer that they were even then mak-
ing no money. The counsel for the
merchants, in his argument before the
commission, remarked that if this were
true, then the express men were doing
business in a childish way. He seemed

**TAFT IS WELCOMED
AS TRADE SUMMER**

Augusta Throws Off Tradi-
tional Lethargy With
His Advent.

**SEES POSSIBILITIES
AS ADVERTISEMENT**

He Brings Business to Hotel and
Is the Observed of
All Observers.

By JAMES HAY, Jr.

AUGUSTA, Ga., Dec. 23.—The coming
of William Howard Taft to Augusta
has wiped out forever that treasured
old picture of a languid and unenter-
prising South. Incidentally, it has dem-
onstrated beyond dispute that as an
advertising medium a President-elect
enjoys a prestige all his own.

The morning after he arrived one of
the stores here inserted in a local news-
paper his photograph, and under it that
a few well-chosen words, as follows:
"Taft and prosperity are here. We
will give tomorrow a double number of
trading stamps."

And for get-up-and-getness, wide-
awake hustling, and a few other fine
business qualities, such a feat is going
some south of Mason and Dixon's line.
A few days later, it was mentioned in
the hearing of a few individuals that
Mr. Taft would attend the theater that
night. As there is only one theater of
any consequence in Augusta, it was
easy to guess where he would go, and
a gauntlet press agent nearly ran a
leg off to reach the afternoon paper in
time to get an announcement printed to
the effect that anybody who went to see
his show could also get a look at the
President-elect when he was near by,
helpless, and in full view of the audi-
ence.

Already one baby has been named
after the great man—Augusta baby.

The advertising he has given the Bon
Air Hotel has brought the moneyed
members of the "Upper Ten," the
"Four Hundred," and every other fash-
ionable numerical caste into that hos-
tel on the double quick. Fraternities,
clubs and telegrams come every hour to
the room clerk asking, praying, and
beseeching for reservations. Ordinarily,
the "season" at the Bon Air begins in
January, but this year it is already on
with a vengeance.

Just across the Savannah river, on
the South Carolina side, there is an-
other hotel called the Hampton Terrace.
When the President-elect was at Hot
Springs, and it was announced that he
would go to Augusta, the Hampton and
Hot Springs too began to be crowded.
The Bon Air immediately sent agents to
Hampton to beg Mr. Taft to honor
their houses. The Bon Air man won
out, and ever since then, according to
Colonel Wood, the manager of the
Hampton, instead of enjoying the
excellent menu, has taken up most of
his time in hitting his fingers. In the
meantime, the Bon Air is being crowded
to its capacity with the ultra-fashion-
able, who often run the risk of dislo-
cating their necks in attempting to see
Taft.

Taft Ruling Figure.
It pays to advertise, but it is a gold
mine when you use a President-elect
as the advertising medium. And the
business men have waked up to this
fact with a thoroughness that creates
many a masterful device and unex-
pected motto. Taft is the ruling figure, as
is Mary Queen of Scots in Edin-
burgh, or Napoleon in Paris.

There are no people in Augusta except
the true Southern gentlemen and the
Misses Russell, who are not aware of
change since the war. It is now the
rule among our leading people to make
money. Every word about the war, the
slave labor, and a lot of the output
of the mind in this town is circling
around William Howard Taft. Even the
hack drivers are making money out of
the distinguished visitor. They catch
the ear of the tourist down town with:
"Lemme drive you up to de Taft car-
tage."

And the tourist, being merely human,
drives to see the roof which shelters
the next President.

Profit by Advice.
Mr. Taft has made several speeches
advising the South to get up and hustle,
and he has come to Augusta to see
the fruits of his advice. Standing on
his front porch, he can hear the whir
of wheels and read the advertisements
of the South with prosperity as
a byproduct. Augusta is on a boom—
a Taft boom—and the goose hangs high.

Thus is a tradition made to look ab-
surd, and in this manner is a popular
belief produced to be a fallacy and a
snare. With a few dollars of the pro-
hibition law, the Georgia gentleman
may drink his juice or his toddy with-
out being bothered by the law, but in
the second required to swallow
the beverage, he may be seized with
a fit of dizziness and make money
out of the stay of the President-elect
in this thrifty city. Business is busi-
ness in Georgia, as it is in New York.

Chivalry and courtesy and the love
of fair women is still in our midst, but
business also stalks at our side.

William Howard Taft is advertising
Augusta and her wares.

**WILL RECOMMEND
NEW CANAL RULE**

Change in Form of Government of
Zone Desired by Colonel
Goethals and Others.

A change in the form of government
on the canal zone probably will be re-
commended by the House Committee on
Interstate and Foreign Commerce be-
fore the end of the short session of
Congress. The present government is
typically a military one, the zone being
governed by officials more or less under
the War Department.

Colonel Goethals is said to have dis-
cussed the matter of a change in gov-
ernment with Secretary Wright and in
an interview given at Colon last night.
The Secretary was in favor of the
Southern Judicial circuit and send-
ing down a United States judge for the
zone. This change could be made
only by legislative enactment.

BISHOP McQUAID SINKING.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Dec. 23.—Rt.
Rev. B. J. McQuaid, bishop of Roches-
ter, is very ill today and his hold on
life is declared by his physicians most
precarious. They are amazed at the
tenacity with which he is fighting off
death, which they declare but a mat-
ter of hours.

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Miss Carroll, of Baltimore, who has
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Miss Laura Pagan, daughter of O. E.
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and entertain were Misses Amy Walpole
of Virginia; and Miss Murrin, of Penn-
sylvania; house guests of Miss Russell;
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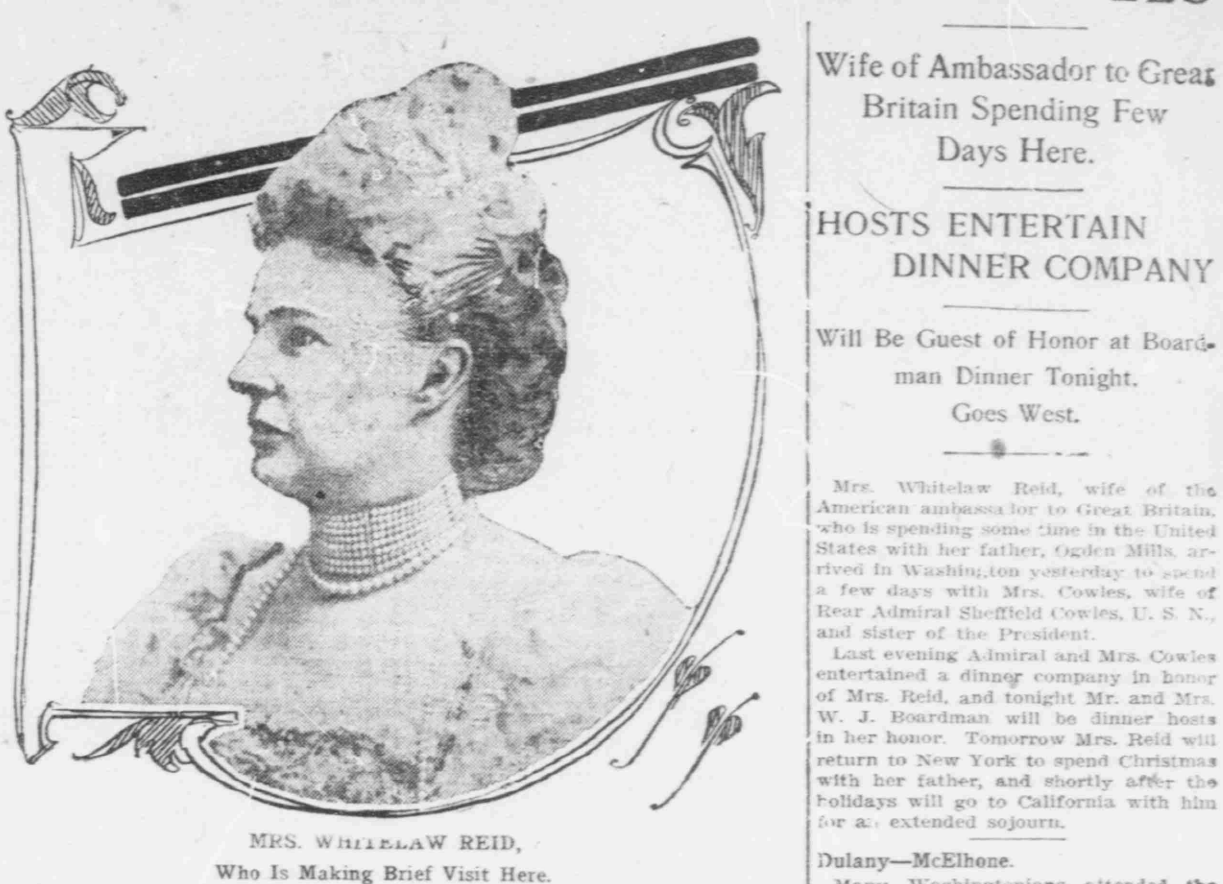
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Mrs. Roosevelt was among those in
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Among those in the audience were the
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daughter of the Assistant Attorney
General. The guests invited to meet
and entertain were Misses Amy Walpole
of Virginia; and Miss Murrin, of Penn-
sylvania; house guests of Miss Russell;
Miss Margaret Clark and Miss Frances
Clark, daughters of Senator and Mrs.
Clark; Miss Alice Marsh and Miss Mary
Marsh, of Nashville, Tenn.; and Miss
Dorothy Brandon.

Rumbaugh House Party.

Lieut. Col. and Mrs. David J. Rum-
baugh will entertain a house party for
the holidays. Their guests will be Miss
Stanley and Miss Flanche Stanley,
daughters of General Stanley, U. S. A.;
Miss Ruth H. Halloway, and Cadet
Capt. William Halloway, and Cadet
Donaldson, and Cadet Stanley Rum-
baugh, of the United States Military
Academy at West Point.

Mrs. Leiter will entertain a company
of young people at dinner this evening
in her home on Dupont Circle.

The Misses Mellen left Washington
this afternoon to spend Christmas in
Philadelphia with relatives.

Mrs. John F. Jackson, who has been
spending the early winter in Europe,
has postponed her sailing date and will
not arrive in Washington in time for
the holidays, but is expected about Jan-
uary 2.

Miss Francis Williams, the youngest
daughter of Col. and Mrs. John W.
Williams, Esq., and Miss Alice Shep-
herd, of Washington, will be among
the young people at luncheon today,
followed by a box party at the theater.